

NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
36 Years of Service to Improving Delaware's Quality of Life
"Preserving Delaware's Natural Areas Today for all Delawareans Tomorrow"

NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2018
Rose Cottage
102 South State Street
Dover, DE 19901
9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:

James White, Vice-Chair
Edward Lewandowski, Secretary
John Williams
Ted Palmer
Richard Bergold

Staff:

Bob Ehemann, Parks & Recreation, DNREC
Sarah Sellers, Parks & Recreation, DNREC
Matt Chessser, Parks & Recreation, DNREC
Ray Bivens, Parks & Recreation, DNREC

I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

Mr. White called the Natural Areas Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. welcoming Council members and staff and asked for announcements.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. White asked for a motion to approve the June 14, 2018 minutes. Motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Mr. Williams, Mr. Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

- *Nature Areas Program Logo* - Sarah Sellers, Graphics Designer, presented an updated draft of the logo which includes outlines of a fish, dragonfly and frog representing water, air and land. Council liked the revisions and agreed on modifying the fish to a striped bass. Mr. Lewandowski asked about the wording and the Council agreed on "Delaware Natural Areas" which has a broader appeal representing both the Council and the Natural Areas Program. Mrs. Sellers will provide an updated version with background and font colors from blue to green.
- *Natural Preserve Program Video/website* - this initiative has been differed until the Natural Areas Program Manager position is filled. Mr. Chessser noted that producing the videos and updating the website will be a priority for 2019.

- *White Clay Creek Master Plan update* - Mr. Ehemann explained that about 70 action items have been identified as the result of the four public open houses, an on-line survey and input from numerous partners. These items are being evaluated/prioritized by staff. The next steps will be drafting the Master Plan and holding another public open house for final public review and recommendations. Mr. White commended the staff on public involvement and noted that everyone he's talked to about this are pleased with the planning process.
- *Waysides* - Mr. White discussed having a wayside exhibit near the nature center at Lums Pond State Park similar to the waysides recently installed at Fork Branch Nature Preserve. The wayside will provide an overview of the program, the importance of Natural Areas, pictures and an area map. Mr. Williams added that water features are a good idea to include with the map. A timeline for completion will be discussed and the Division will fund the costs associated with the wayside.

IV. Natural Areas Registry

- No issues at this time.

V. Nature Preserve Dedications

- None at this time.

VI. Nature Preserve Management Issues

- No issues at this time.

VII. New Business

- Mr. Ehemann updated the Council on an initial conversation Lorraine Flemming and Division staff had with NCCo Land Use about the county's subdivision ordinance. Specifically, the high fees and the required time associated with recordation of land subdivision or donations can be a deterrent for land owners. The County will look into these fees and get back with staff.
- *Natural Areas Program Manager position* - the posting will close on December 27 with interviews expected in January 2019.
- *Council Vacancy* – Peter Martin resigned from the Council after 10 years of service to the Council. Council members were asked to keep a look out for potential candidates. All current Council members have terms that expire in 2021 or 2022.
- *Review Conservation Easement brochure* – Mr. Ehemann requested that any comments or edits be sent to him. Mr. Williams noted the draft was good, concise and should focus on private land owners to encourage them to protect their properties. Mr. Palmer suggested more attention to down state areas since this region of the state has the largest and best remaining areas in need of protection. Outreach efforts were discussed including State Fair, Farm Bureau, Ag and Forest communities.
- Mr. Lewandowski complimented Ray Bivens and staff on the 2017 Annual Report

which was handed out to Council members.

- Mr. Bivens shared that deer hunting at Brandywine Creek State Park was modified from a 2-day shotgun season to an expanded archery season resulting in an increase harvest and no issues.
- Mr. Palmer shared his concern about the timber market resulting in the closure of timber mills. This is a topic that will need to be closely watched since clear cutting is being demanded by the timber buyers.
- Mr. White chairs the Native Species Commission with Fish & Wildlife Director David Saveikis as the DNREC Liaison. The Commission is tasked with consolidating species information, prioritizing conservation needs and identifying invasive species methods.
- *Election of Council Officers* – The annual secret paper ballot was held to determine Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Park Council Liaison for 2019. Mr. Lewandowski, Secretary, tallied the votes and reported that all incumbents were voted to continue their duties.
(Chair – Debbie Heaton, Vice Chair – Jim White, Secretary – Ed Lewandowski and Park Council Liaison – Ed Lewandowski)

VIII. Public Comment

- No public comments.

IX. Proposed Meeting Dates

- March 14, June 6, September 5 and December 12 subject to change

X. Adjournment

Mr. White asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams made the motion and Mr. Palmer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.